

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
December 7, 2004

Contact: Robert White /Drew Crockett
(202) 225-5074

Davis Praises Passage of 9/11 Bill

*Improved Security Clearance Process, Information Security, Study of
Financial Disclosure Requirements Are Among Provisions Pushed by Davis*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA-11th) is pleased to announce that the U.S. House of Representatives today approved S. 2845, the “9/11 Recommendations Implementation Act,” by a vote of 336 to 75, clearing the way for a reorganization of the U.S. Intelligence Community to address the weaknesses identified in the wake of the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The act builds upon the framework for reform identified by the final report of the bipartisan National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (the 9/11 Commission) to revamp the federal government’s intelligence and information-sharing networks.

Chairman Davis is an original co-sponsor of the House companion legislation, which was introduced by House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) on September 24, 2004. The Government Reform Committee was one of several committees to mark up the bill in September.

The legislation creates a new National Intelligence Director (with budget authority), a National Counterterrorism Center, and a Joint Intelligence Community Council, and makes other comprehensive reforms to the organization of the Intelligence Community. The bill is not only consistent with the findings and recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, but also reflects the recent oversight work of the Government Reform Committee and both houses of Congress.

“We are finally moving away from an intelligence structure designed 50 years ago to fight the Cold War, not the modern threats we face today,” Davis said. “This is a good

bill, one that will fundamentally alter and improve the government's ability to share needed information across offices and into the hands of the people who can act on it."

Davis added: "We took our time to put together a bill that improves the security of our nation and remains true to the 9/11 Commission report. Despite the fact that this legislation is far from perfect, I am proud of what we've achieved in this legislation on behalf of the American people who, understandably, are clamoring for change."

Several provisions in the legislation were authored and championed by Davis, including:

- **An improved security clearance process.** The legislation would assign security clearance management and oversight to a single agency, department or element of the federal government selected by the President. The entity selected by the President would set uniform standards and policies and require reciprocity among agencies. This would enable an individual with a top-secret clearance at, say, Treasury to retain that clearance should he or she move to another agency.

"Previous efforts to enforce reciprocity have failed, but this legislation would finally address this important part of the process by putting an end to the time - and money - wasting practice of redundant security clearance investigations and adjudications," Davis said. "This redundancy drives up the cost of doing business, and this cost is ultimately passed on to the taxpayers."

- **A study of existing financial disclosure requirements.** "Just about anyone who studies the presidential appointments process realizes that it is broken – it takes too long to confirm individuals to key positions, and the process itself often drives away some of the best qualified to serve," Chairman Davis said. "Financial disclosure requirements are supposed to protect against conflict of interest concerns. But they have become proxy statements for a nominee's net worth, with more detail than necessary. This legislation paves the way for reform of the process next year by requiring a study of our existing financial disclosure requirements."
- **An amendment to Clinger-Cohen to strengthen information security.** The provision explicitly identifies information security as a required element of all federal information technology investment decision-making and strategic planning.
- **Enabling mutual aid agreements in the Washington area.** The legislation allows the governors of Virginia and Maryland, the mayor of District of Columbia, or a designated federal representative to offer or accept help to jurisdictions in the National Capital Region during an emergency. This "mutual aid" agreement will protect emergency responders against liability claims (by subjecting them only to the liability laws of their "home")

jurisdiction), thus facilitating their ability to cross jurisdictional boundaries to offer help.

“Allowing for mutual-aid agreements is a commonsense approach to making sure resources can be shared across state lines during emergencies,” Davis said. “For a high-target area such as the National Capital Region, this is an absolute necessity.”

- **A revitalization of the FBI’s intelligence workforce.** The legislation requires the Director of the FBI to place a renewed emphasis on training, recruitment and career development of agents who work in the intelligence field. It establishes an FBI Intelligence Career Service for intelligence analysts, allows the Director to establish an FBI Reserve Service to temporarily re-hire retired and former full-time FBI agents in periods of emergency, and permits the Bureau to raise the mandatory retirement age to 65 (instead of 60) for a limited number of employees.

###